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AN EXHIBITION

OF

THE DRAWINGS

OF

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FRANCIS GILBERT ATTWOOD

FROM MAY 16 TO JUNE 16, 1901.

BOSTON:
ALFRED MUDGE & SON, PRINTERS,
24 FRANKLIN STREET.
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Thomas Minns
June 24, 1903

FRANCIS GILBERT ATTWOOD.

SEPT. 29, 1856 ✠ APRIL 30, 1900.

As the margins of his school-books testify, Francis Attwood showed at an early age great facility in drawing; and when the Harvard "Lampoon" was started in 1876, he already possessed a clear and thoughtful talent, which his remarkable cartoon of the dinner hour at Memorial Hall revealed. It was the first one of that series, entitled the "Manners and Customs of ye Harvard Student," which was rightly called an undergraduate classic, and which enabled that brilliant but unsteady sheet to weather the uncertainties of its early years.

Owing to family reasons, he was obliged to leave college a year before his class graduated, at which time he engaged in a term of study with Dr. Wm. Rimmer; and later he studied a year at the Museum School. With this meagre artistic equipment, he started on his life's work as an illustrator and caricaturist; but although he was handicapped by the lack of early training, his originality, drollness, and the charming personal qualities which he brought to his work, made up for a deficiency which he so truly appreciated. Through these qualities he developed a style which was peculiarly his own; and if his execution was sometimes lacking in freedom, his conceptions were always spontaneous. He delved into the depths of the ingenious and the grotesque, and delineated the quaint and original details of human expression and action with a minuteness and industry which showed what delight he must have taken in it.

For several years after leaving college he illustrated magazines and books, and at the same time continued to draw for

the "Lampoon," until 1833, when "Life" — which was in a way evolved from the "Lampoon" — was started. To "Life" he was a constant contributor, up to his last illness. He continued to draw for magazines and to illustrate books, among which were the "Fairies' Festival," "Jack Hall," "A Bad Penny," "The Peterkin Papers," "The Musical Journey of Delia and Dorothea," and the "Hasty Pudding Centennial Poem."

Attwood brought to his work a liberal education, great modesty and industry, and a just and thoughtful mind. Added to these characteristics was the gift of a keen and rapid appreciation, quite without malice, of the fanciful and witty elements of human nature. These qualities he used with singularly happy accuracy in his review of the events of our daily life. His clear estimate of right and wrong he applied with equal justness to his heroes and to his victims. It is refreshing to note that he was so little of a partisan as to be able to attack both Mr. Cleveland and Mr. Harrison, and to spare neither Mr. McKinley nor Mr. Bryan. His wit bore no resemblance to that exaggerated caricature so prevalent in America, but was always restrained and clean.

We feel in Attwood's drawings what we knew in him — a wit that was keen yet kindly, and severe only in scoring humbug and oppression, and a healthy love for whatever was sound and cheery and tender. Delicacy, courage, and modesty were the essentials of his character. Everything he did was as well done as he could do it; every drawing was finished with instructive conscientiousness, often at the expense of immense labor, and usually with loving care. It is pleasant to realize that his greatest delight lay in the production of children and fairies, wrought in fanciful schemes of delicate and involved composition.

In looking over the present exhibition, which extends over a period of twenty years, we can better appreciate the amount of Attwood's production when we note the work for "Life" alone which required one cartoon a month, besides other drawings; and every one of them contained a

kindly or merry or pointed message, and all so cleverly clothed that we hardly suspected the moral: while he fought against wrong and abuse, and humbug of every kind, we smiled, but we absorbed our lesson. The retiring man, who spent his life in a house situated in a secluded bit of rocky woodland in Jamaica Plain, would have been the last one to realize that he had been an influence in the life of his country; but we cannot here fail to appreciate his power for good in these twenty years of industrious and fanciful creation.

J. T. C., Jr.

CATALOGUE.

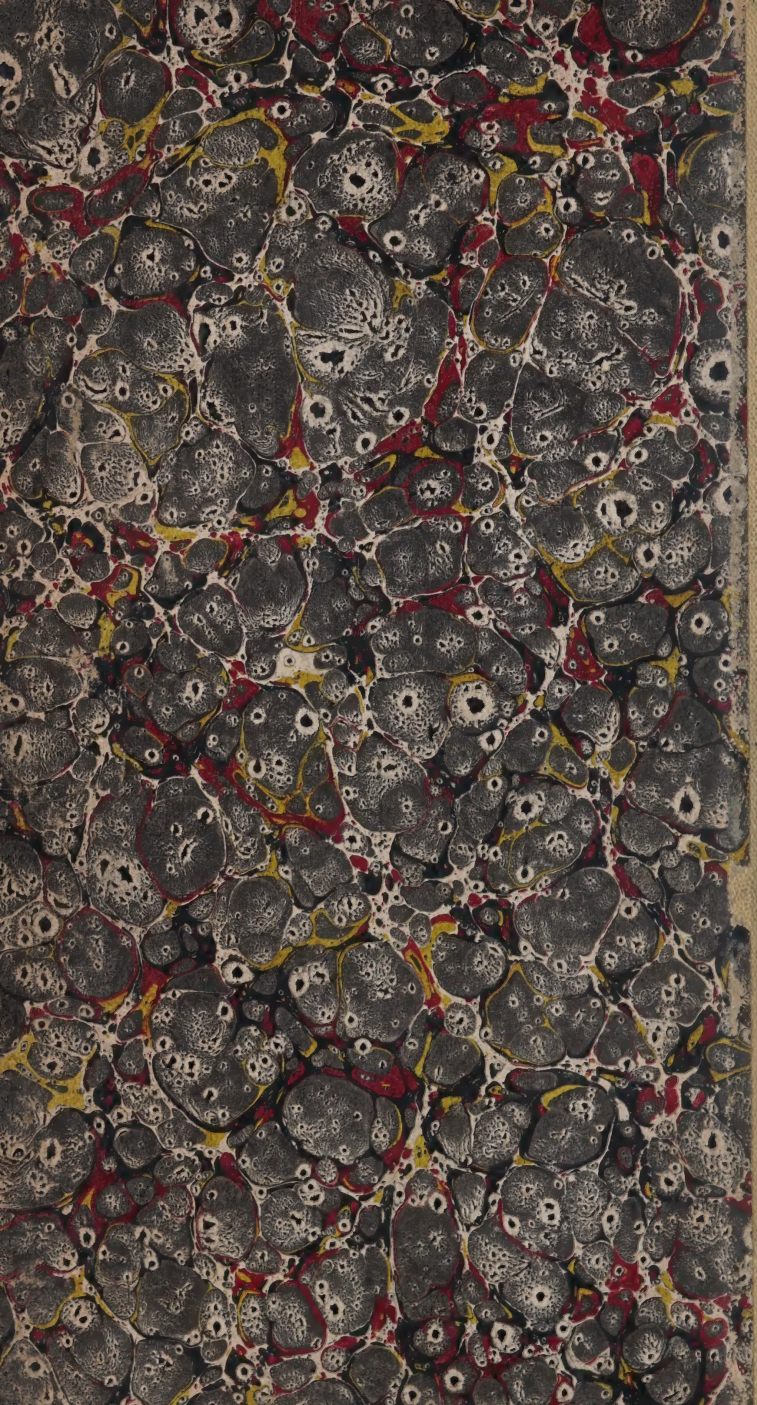
DRAWINGS FROM LIFE.

The drawings are placed, as nearly as possible, in chronological order, beginning with Room 2, Case 68.

1–13 Early Drawings.
14 Monthly Cartoon, March, 1888.
15 Monthly Cartoon, May, 1888.
16 Tail-piece.
17 Monthly Cartoon, January, 1888.
18 Monthly Cartoon, January, 1887.
19 Monthly Cartoon, June, 1888.
20 Monthly Cartoon, October, 1888.
21 Monthly Cartoon, 1887.
22 Drawing.
23–28 Monthly Cartoons for the year 1888.
29 Cartoon for Fourth of July number of "Life."
30 "Christmas Sermon."
31 The Queen's Jubilee Procession.
32–40 Monthly Cartoons for the year 1889.
41 Christmas Drawing for "Life."
42 Monthly Cartoon, January, 1890.
43 Tavern Club shingle, Christmas, 1893. Lent by the Tavern Club.
44 Monthly Cartoon, April, 1890.
45 Monthly Cartoon, June, 1890.
46 "Life's Target Practice."
47 Monthly Cartoon, July, 1890.
48 "An American Town."
49 In Memoriam: General Grant.
50–54 Monthly Cartoons, August to December, 1890.

55 Monthly Cartoon, January, 1891.
56 Valentine, from "Life."
57 Study of a Child.
58 Monthly Cartoon, February, 1891.
59 Illustration for an Easter number of "Life."
60 Illustration for a Christmas number of "Life."
61–67 Monthly Cartoons for the year 1893.
68 "Contemporary Literature."
69 "Christmas at the Other End of the Century."
70–79 Monthly Cartoons for the year 1894.
80 "Thanksgiving in Europe."
81 Our Colored Soldiers.
82 "Dear me, it was not always thus." Lent by J. C. Davis, Esq.
83 "The Irish were ever a Witty and Artistic Race."— J. Ruskin. Lent by E. M. Wheelwright, Esq.
84–86 Christmas Illustrations.
87 The Courting.
88 The Months.
89 "A Christmas Satire."
90 "Aspects of Current Fiction."
91 Illustration for "The Fairies' Festival."
92 "King Christmas' Bonfire."
93 Illustration for "The Fairies' Festival."
94 Christmas.
95 The First New England Monday.
96 Thanksgiving.
97 "The Peace of Europe."
98 Illustration for the Hasty Pudding Centennial Poem of the Club. Lent by J. T. Wheelwright, Esq.
99 Illustration for the Hasty Pudding Book.
100 Destruction of Merrymount.
101–104 Monthly Cartoons, January to April, 1895.
105–108 Political Drawings.
109 Bunker Hill Day.
110–117 Monthly Cartoons, May to December, 1895.
118 "St. Patrick's Day."
119 "Father Christmas in the Stocks."

120 "Fashoda."
121 "Peace Conference in Europe."
122 "A Triple Alliance."
123–128 Political Drawings.
129 "The Heroes of Peace."
Case 34. Early Drawings.
Cases 37, 40, 43. Illustrations for "The Fairies' Festival."

ROOM 3. CASES 90 TO 106.

130–141 Monthly Cartoons for the year 1896.
142–149 Monthly Cartoons for January to August, 1897.
150 "The Boer Trap."
151 Drawing.
152 "Europe's Burden."
153 "Uncle Sam's Long Stretch."
154–157 Monthly Cartoons, September to December, 1897.
158–173 Political Drawings — Spanish War-time.
174–181 Monthly Cartoons for the year 1898.
182–189 Monthly Cartoons for January to August, 1899.
190 The Anglo-Saxon Christmas, 1899. The last drawing made by the artist.
191–193 Monthly Cartoons, September to November, 1899.
194 The Dingley Tariff.
195 Stretching the Monroe Doctrine. Lent by R. Olney, Esq.
Case 88 Books illustrated by F. G. Attwood.
Case 89 Drawings from the "Cosmopolitan."